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Control: 15477
Rec'd: March 22, 1960
7:16 p.m.

ACTION:
INFO: file

BS 3/23/60

FROM: Paris

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 4304, March 22, 7 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 4304; REPEATED INFORMATION HABANA 24.

Re Habana telegrams sent Department 2379 and 2407.

Communist L'HUMANITE today carries story reporting ceremony took place yesterday morning at headquarters Communist-dominated CGT in which Cuban "delegation" including Cuban Ambassador at Paris, "numerous" members of Embassy, and Salvador and Alvarez De la Campa, presented $10,000 check to each family of six sailors killed in LA COURBRE disaster. CGT Secretary General Frachon and Secretary General CGT seamen's federation, Grenais, played host. Salvador, in presentation, reportedly referred to solidarity uniting French and Cuban peoples, and "recalled that sabotage of LA COUBRE was work of enemies of Cuban revolution".

This afternoon's LE MONDE, only other newspaper carrying story, devotes brief one-paragraph to it.

Embassy has been informed by Force Ouvrier (FO) that story has following curious background: Bothereau, secretary in FO had received telegram from Cuba last week saying Cuban trade union delegation arriving Paris and requesting appointment with Bothereau at FO headquarters where presentation of funds in name Cuban revolutionary government and CTC could be made, requesting also that families of victims be present. Bothereau cabled back fixing appointment for yesterday morning. Bothereau had responded after some hesitation since he knew meeting would be used for propaganda purposes. He did not attempt bring families to Paris but intended instead to recommend to Cuban delegation yesterday that funds be turned over to French Government agency handling seamen's pensions, which could then distribute funds.

No one

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